

FINAL REPORT OF
THE 6th SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE
TRANSLATION INTO HAUSA OF UNESCO'S
GENERAL HISTORY OF AFRICA

NIAMEY, OUA-CELHTO 15th - 18th SEPTEMBER 1997

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OPENING CEREMONY

The Director of CELHTO welcomed members and expressed his appreciation of the commitment and dedication as shown by them. He was also pleased that UNESCO has maintained and even increased its usual support for the project. He told the new UNESCO Representative, Dr. M.L. Sedat JOBE, Regional Cultural Adviser, BREDA (Dakar) of the resolve of the members to put in more effort towards the successful completion of the translation and publication of the Hausa series of the UNESCO General History of Africa. As for the Regional Cultural Adviser, (Dakar), he indicated his pleasure for the total commitment of the members both in Niger and Nigeria and CELHTO in carrying out the project. That was why he tried to solve all the problems so as to facilitate the activities relating to this work. He drew the attention of the members to the World Commission on Cultural Development and called for their reflection and action. He was ready to go to Sokoto to conclude any pending matters.

The agenda which was modified to include a presentation of the World Commission on Cultural Development as a 4th item, was adopted as follows :

1. Problems relating to the publication of volumes III, IV and VII.
2. Adoption of the Hausa text of volume VI.
3. Designation of translators, revisers and editors.
4. Report of the World Commission on Cultural Development.
5. Any other bussiness.

1. Problems Relating to the Publication of Volumes III, IV and VII.

1.1 The problems relating to the publication of volumes III, IV and VII were reported by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo

University Sokoto (representing the Vice-Chancellor), with details added by the Project Coordinator.

The publication of the earlier volumes I and II was successfully accomplished according to the initial plan, namely 2000 copies at the cost of \$ 4000 per volume. This amount was not enough and the University had to pay for the balance. Furthermore, inflation had impeded the production of volume VII and would eventually hinder the production of volumes III, IV and VI ; therefore, an upward review of the cost of publication would be necessary. It was reported that volumes III and IV are to be submitted to the printers awaiting the release of contract. The more recent volume VI, which was yet to be adopted was also reported successfully translated, revised and edited in record time. For volume VII an amount of \$ 2000 was advanced.

1.2 The production of all those volumes III, IV and VII, was estimated at a current cost of \$ 8000 for each volume.

1.3 The problem was thoroughly discussed and it was resolved that UNESCO should endeavour to take up the matter to its logical conclusion, while Usmanu Danfodiyo University should continue to provide other supports.

2. Adoption of the Hausa Text of Volume VI.

The Project Coordinator presented the report as well as the text, for examination and adoption. A suggestion to adopt a shorter and smaller format similar to the Fulfulde and Kiswahili versions was examined in detail but was finally turned down in favour of retaining the initial Hausa format.

The translation of volume VI, though successful in both quality and speed, did not benefit from the terminology workshop which preceded the translation of earlier volumes. In order to maintain the quality and consistency of the remaining volumes, it was unanimously resolved to hold workshops for the two final volumes. The Director of CELHTO will submit proposals for the schedule and the costs of the workshop.

In order also to achieve a higher and broader utilization of the translated volumes, it was equally unanimously resolved to publish the terminologies emanating from the workshops. The Director of CELHTO will submit request in due time.

The Regional Cultural for Adviser promised to secure funds for the publication of the terminologies and assist in financing the workshops.

The text of volume VI was finally adopted following a motion to that effect moved by R.M. Zarruk and seconded by Boubé Gado and Abdullahi B. Yahya.

3. Designation of Translators, Revisors and Editors for Volumes V and VIII.

3.1 Both volumes (of 29 and 30 chapters respectively) were noted to be in French. It was reported during the course of the meeting that the remaining part of volume V, which had been expected in July, will finally arrive next week at CELHTO, and that volume VIII would arrive unfailingly by 15th October 1997.

3.2 After considering at length the list of the names of translators revisors and editors proposed by the Project Coordinator, the following was finally agreed :

A. TRANSLATORS

1. M. Boubé Gado
2. M. Laouali Malam Moussa
3. Dr. Halifa Dikwa
4. Prof. Djibo Hamani
5. M. Bachir Attoumane
6. Mrs. Fatima Ibrahim
7. M. Abubakar Hussaini.

B. READERS

1. Prof. Moh. Hambali Junju
2. M. Rabiou Moh. Zarruk.

C. EDITOR

Prof. Ibrahim Mukoshy.

4. Report of the World Commission on Cultural Development

The Regional Cultural Adviser presented a general outline of the World Commission on Cultural Development and indicated that for the years to come, a lot of the programme activities for the Sector of Culture will be drawn from its contents in collaboration with Member States. For these reasons, the Sector as well as the Culture and Development Co-ordination Office would like the Report and recommendations attached to

be discussed in various working groups in the region and be given maximum support by National Commission.

He distributed the following documents :

- a) The UNESCO Courier, September 1996.
- b) Inventory of recommendations contained in the Analytical chapters and the International Agenda of Our Creative Diversity.
- c) World Commission on Culture and Development: Fact sheet.
- d) Our Creative Diversity.

5. Any Other Bussiness

5.1 The Representative of the V.C. UDUS mentioned a recent work on the life and works of Nana Asma'u Danfodio, which was authored by Jean Boyd and Beberly Mack and published by the Michigan State University Press. UDUS, he said, was so thoroughly convinced of the worth and relevance of a Nigerian publication of the work that it entered into a joint publication agreement of it with the US Publisher and author(s). However, UDUS did not have the resources, and he wanted to know if UNESCO could assist. The Regional Cultural Adviser after asking for more details, suggested for a written recommendation, and requested the project be presented as a regional one with the support of the National Commissions for UNESCO of the Hausa speaking member states.

5.2 In response to a member's question, the Director of CELHTO traced the history of a trilingual (Hausa-French-English) Dictionnary Project initiated over a decade earlier but which was taken over by Niamey University and subsequently abandoned. The meeting strongly advised, and CELHTO agreed and resolved to retrieve and resuscitate the project in view of its enormous promise as a pace-setter.

6. At the closing session the Chairman expressed his pleasure in seeing that the meeting had been cordial, hard-working and really productive. The UNESCO Representative also expressed his sincere gratitude for work well done.

The Director of CELHTO added his gratitude to all the participants and expressed the hope that the 7th session will take place at the earliest convenience.

The report has been adopted and the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Niamey, 17th September 1997

Pr. Dalhatu Muhammad

Rabiu M. Zarruk

Chairman

Rapporteur

MEMBERS

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